

8
RULES AND ORDERS,

OF THE

FRIENDLY FUND,

WHICH COMMENCED AT

TEAMS FACTORY,

IN THE

Parish of Gateshead, and County of Durham,

THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY,

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD,

1797.

PRINTED BY D. AKENHEAD AND SONS, SANDHILL,
NEWCASTLE,

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INTRODUCTION.

Seeing mankind are liable to sickness and such bodily infirmities as may utterly incapacitate them to endeavour for and purchase the necessaries of life, and as it is consistent with the highest prudence to lay up for a day of distress, and use every proper measure in order to alleviate those evils we are obnoxious to, and, as it likewise bespeaks true dignity of spirit, and is in all respects truly laudable to support ourselves at all times, without being troublesome, or dependant on others for subsistence, We, therefore, whose names are hereunto subscribed, in consideration of what is above said, do firmly unite

ourselves for the mutual help and assistance of each other, by raising a fund, and applying it according to the rules and purposes aftermentioned; and for the continuing and establishing the Friendly Union, We, the said subscribers, and all and every person or persons, who shall be hereafter admitted, shall subscribe his or their names unto these presents, and by signing, sealing, and delivering these presents, as his or their act and deed, for the uses herein mentioned, shall hereby oblige him or themselves to be conformable and yield obedience unto all and every the following Rules and Orders.

ARTICLES, &c.

ARTICLE FIRST.

AGREED, September 26, 1803, That the fund shall be continued at the house of Mr THOMAS DOWNS, at Teams, if he conforms to the following rules.

The members to meet on a Saturday evening, at the hour of seven o'clock, every six weeks from the date hereof; each member to spend threepence each time, and pay one shilling into the box. Also to be subject to the rules after-mentioned, until all business be completely finished. Also, that a box be provided with three keys, one key to be kept by the landlord of the house, and the other two by the two stewards.

ARTICLE SECOND.

That there shall be chosen two stewards out of this society, who shall serve for six months, and afterwards to be chosen as they stand in the roll; and, also, that three members of this society be

chosen for a committee, who, with the stewards, may decide any dispute that may arise; and if the majority think it not legal, it shall be put to vote, by way of ballot, and shall be determined by a majority of votes.

ARTICLE THIRD.

That the stewards and committee, chosen at the end of every six months, refusing to stand, being fairly elected, shall forfeit one shilling each.

ARTICLE FOURTH.

That no person shall be admitted into this society without a majority of votes; nor any above thirty-five years of age, (after the first twelve months) nor any person that hath any known ailment in body or mind.

ARTICLE FIFTH.

That every member who entereth this society, from the first of January one thousand seven hundred and ninety seven, and the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, shall pay one shilling entrance; and every one that entereth after the first day of January, one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, shall pay two shillings and sixpence for his or their entrance.

ARTICLE SIXTH.

That any person wishing to enter into this society, shall give notice of it to the stewards, six weeks before he shall be admitted; of which notice the stewards shall inform the society; and if any member know any ailment, infirmity, or distemper, with which such person is afflicted, or if he be also a debauched, idle person, such member shall make his report to the stewards, at or before the next meeting, of such ailment, &c.; and if he be fit to be a brother, and free of such ailments, &c. he shall be admitted.

ARTICLE SEVENTH.

If any member of this society shall enlist himself into his majesty's service, either by sea or land, as a volunteer,—if he comes home, free from wounds and lameness, that may not render him incapable of working, on paying up his weekly contributions and other fines, he shall be readmitted into this society; or if any member should, of his own free will, leave this factory, or be discharged from the same, and should engage himself to any factory elsewhere, he shall be continued, by sending his money once every six weeks, on account of his distance, to the stewards, or be fined twopence. And if he does

not come or send his money at the twelfth week, he shall be fined fourpence, and for the eighteenth week, be excluded. If any absent member, shall fall sick, lame, or get a misfortune, that renders him incapable of working, on his sending a certificate, signed by the minister, church-wardens and overseers of the parish, of such sickness, or affliction, he shall receive the benefits, as in the following rules, providing he gives proof that his misfortune was not got by any unlawful practice.

ARTICLE EIGHTH.

If any member of this society disguises himself in liquor on the sabbath day, commonly called Sunday, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit sixpence; or if any member be charged with any felonious matter, he shall be excluded this society, until he shall be lawfully acquitted of the same.

ARTICLE NINTH.

That no member that hath contracted infirmity, by a wicked or debauched way of living, shall have any benefit from the fund; or if it be proved he gets his misfortune by quarrelling, drunkenness, fighting, lewd women, or any other sort of idle practice, that does not render him incapa-

ble of working at the first, but afterwards renders him incapable of following his business, and he making a full demand upon the fund, shall be excluded.

ARTICLE TENTH.

That every member shall clear off his arrears at the change of the stewards every six months, or forfeit one shilling; that is, the first of January, at twelve o'clock, and first Monday after midsummer, when every member must be present at six o'clock at night, or be fined sixpence, if he is in perfect health; or make it appear that his business causes his absence.

ARTICLE ELEVENTH.

That if any one, after he hath been a member one year, falls sick, lame, or infirm, so that he is rendered incapable of working, such member shall receive six shillings per week, for the first twenty six weeks, and if he lies longer than twenty six weeks incapable of working, he shall receive two shillings and sixpence per week, for twenty six weeks after.

ARTICLE TWELFTH.

That if any one dies, after he hath been a member one year, there shall be paid, on account of

his funeral expences, to his widow, executors, administrators, or assigns, five pounds, sterling money, to which charge every surviving member shall contribute sixpence, besides the twopence per week; and if any member refuseth to pay the same, he shall be excluded.

ARTICLE THIRTEENTH.

Should it please God to take the wife of any member, before the member's decease, there shall be paid to him out of the public stock, sixty shillings, towards funeral expences; and every member shall contribute sixpence towards the same.

ARTICLE FOURTEENTH.

Every member on the death of a legitimate child, from its birth to fifteen years of age, shall receive twenty shillings, towards defraying funeral expences; and each member shall contribute fourpence towards the same. No one, that has not been twelve months admitted, to be entitled to any benefit but what the majority of the society shall adjudge (the funerals of children excepted.)

N. B. No member shall be entitled to the advantage of funeral expences for more than one wife.

ARTICLE FIFTEENTH.

If any member of this society leaves a widow, and she conducts herself as an honest woman, and remains his widow, when she dies, forty shillings shall be paid to help to defray her funeral expences. And any member, having no wife, may chuse any relation he pleases, and when such person dies he may have forty shillings, except he marries before such relation dies; and every member shall pay sixpence towards every funeral expence.

ARTICLE SIXTEENTH.

If any member of this society, by reason of old age, sickness, maim, or misfortune, become unable to work or maintain himself, and shall, after the opinion of an eminent physician or surgeon be taken, be deemed incurable, such impotent member shall have an allowance of two shillings per week, out of the society's public stock, during life.

ARTICLE SEVENTEENTH.

If it be proved that any member has followed business, while receiving money out of the fund, under any pretence of sickness or lameness, he

shall be excluded this society. And a member shall be sick or lame seven days before he shall receive any benefit from the fund, notwithstanding which he shall be paid for that time when expired.

When any such member shall happen to be incapacitated as aforesaid, and wish to claim allowance out of the public stock, he shall forthwith give notice thereof to the stewards for the time being; and if any member or members receive any money unworthily, or shall be found or proved to be out of his house at the time he receives such benefit, after eight o'clock at night, from michaelmas until lady day, and after ten o'clock, from lady day until michaelmas, he shall be excluded, and never be readmitted.

If any brother knows of another brother receiving his money unworthily, and does not acquaint the company with it immediately, he shall forfeit five shillings.

ARTICLE EIGHTEENTH.

That if any member propose the breaking up of this society, he shall be entirely excluded.

ARTICLE NINETEENTH.

If any debate shall arise in this society, that no article herein can fully determine, it shall be de-

terminated by a majority of votes, and then, only one person shall speak at a time, or be fined two-pence.

ARTICLE TWENTIETH.

And as the title of our fund is the Friendly Union, so we can never deserve the name unless good agreement and cordiality reign amongst us. It is therefore ordered, that if any member reflect upon, or make use of scurrilous language to a brother, in or out of this society, to his prejudice, he shall forfeit two shillings; likewise, that if any of the members have at any time or place been fighting one with another, that the aggressor shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence, and the other (except it shall appear to the committee that he could not avoid fighting) shall forfeit one shilling; but if it cannot be made appear who was the aggressor, then they shall each forfeit two shillings and sixpence; and if he or they shall, after such fine or reprimand, obstinately persist in such practice, and fight again in consequence of the same quarrel, then they shall each forfeit five shillings. And if after that they shall again commit the like fault about the same quarrel, they shall be excluded this society; and if any be common quarrellers with others, though not fellow members, they likewise shall be excluded this society.

ARTICLE TWENTY FIRST.

That if any member shall disclose any business of this society, he shall, for every such offence, forfeit five shillings; or if any member divulge or discover any conversation, directly, or indirectly, that passes during club hours, he shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence.

ARTICLE TWENTY SECOND.

That if any member swears or curses during club hours, he shall forfeit twopence; or if he makes use of abusive language, or occasions quarrels, he shall forfeit one shilling. No member shall call for drink or tobacco during club hours, without the stewards leave, on forfeiture of twopence; and if more drink is called for than the members club money amounts to, the stewards shall pay for it at their own charge.

ARTICLE TWENTY THIRD.

That if any member come into the club room, disguised in liquor, he shall forfeit twopence.

ARTICLE TWENTY FOURTH.

That whoever upbraids any member for receiving benefit from the box, he or they, so offending, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence.

ARTICLE TWENTY FIFTH.

That no member shall attempt the breaking up of this box or society, unless the members be reduced to three, on forfeiture of one shilling. So that if there be four, this society shall continue, and when less, the remaining number may open the box, and divide the money in equal shares.

ARTICLE TWENTY SIXTH.

That the stewards be in the club room half an hour before the commencement of the club, or send their key, on forfeiture of sixpence; and that every member must be in the club room at seven o'clock, or forfeit twopence. And if any member shall privately design or promote the breaking up of this box, the member hearing the same, and not discovering it, shall be immediately excluded.

ARTICLE TWENTY SEVENTH.

That whatever house this box be lodged in, the landlord, master, or mistress of the said house, shall give good security for the box-money, bonds, notes, and other papers, and other things of value deposited in the said box: And that the said landlord, master, or mistress of the said

house, shall give a promissory note to the stewards for the time being, for all the money that is in the box, every six weeks, if required.

ARTICLE TWENTY EIGHTH.

That at all six weeks meetings (which is a time for all members to be present) if it is thought fit by the majority of the society to make new orders, they shall be entered in a book for that purpose, and shall be of as much force as any of the foregoing orders. And also, that all improvements by word or words interlined, shall be of as much force as any of the above articles; provided they do not alter the meaning of any of the articles contained herein.

ARTICLE TWENTY NINTH.

That every member of this society shall have a printed copy of these articles at his own expence, that he may be made sensible of every thing contained therein.

ARTICLE THIRTIETH.

That all forfeits whatever shall be paid into the box, and if any member or members refuse to pay the same, he or they shall be immediately excluded.

FINIS.

ARTICLE THIRTY FIRST.

It was agreed, January 1st, 1807, that there shall be annually a dinner provided on the above said day, towards which every member shall subscribe ONE SHILLING and SIXPENCE, and spend TENPENCE for liquor. That this society shall not exceed fifty members. That each member shall pay FIVE SHILLINGS entrance, and that no apprentice be admitted.

FINIS.

It was agreed, January 1875, that there
shall be annually a dinner provided on the above
fund day, towards which every member shall
contribute one shilling and sixpence, and
spend likewise for drink, for the society
shall not exceed fifty members. The fund
members shall pay in an annual amount, and
that no other person shall be admitted.

